

Councilman Panico Honors Volunteers Dedicated to Helping Youth

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Farmingville, NY – Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico recently paid special tribute to volunteers for their outstanding dedication to organizations that improve quality of life for children in Brookhaven Town. Each volunteer was presented with an official Town of Brookhaven Proclamation during the Town's Annual Youth Volunteer Awards held on Friday, May 6th at Brookhaven Town Hall.

Among those honored was Kelsey DeBatto, a volunteer at the Moriches Community Center which serves local youth and families in need. Specifically, she plays an integral role in the group's IGHL Fitness Fun and Open Recreation programs, various food drives, and fundraisers. Kelsey has also been recognized by Center Moriches High School for completing 100 hours of community service for two consecutive years.

Also honored was David Libonati, an active member of Colonial Youth and Family Services. In his capacity as a volunteer, David has assisted in the successful planning and implementation of numerous 5K events, community cleanups, graffiti removals, holiday and education programs and publishing a volunteer newsletter. David has volunteered approximately 1,000 hours to his community.

Laura Fabrizio, co-founder of the environmental nonprofit organization the Moriches Bay Project, was honored for her commitment to working with local students to improve water quality in Moriches Bay through oyster farming and eelgrass plantings. Laura devotes countless hours hosting various educational workshops at area schools mentoring students of all ages on the importance of clean water to the environment. During these workshops, Laura educates students about the value of oysters to cleaning the bay and then works hand-in-hand with them to build oyster cages that are later installed in Moriches Bay.